**Communication Through the Arts PBL Wksp # 2: Scriptwriting Basics**



Students attending the second workshop in **Communication Through the Arts** Problem Based Learning Event, were instructed by Omaha Community Playhouse teaching artist, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about how to take the stories they wanted to tell, from interviews completed after the first workshop. Students learned about the five parts of every story:

* Balance (opening: introducing setting and character(s))
* UnBalance (problem is introduced in story)
* Quest (what the main character decides to do to “solve the unbalance”
* Climax (BIG PART)
* New Balance (never the same as the original balance from the beginning of the story)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stressed that theater is supposed to hold up a mirror to our lives, so viewers can see how the message affects them personally. It can often explore a different point of view. As a playwright begins to write, he/she must consider what inspires him/her personally about the topic and consider reasons why others might be interested in the story being told.



One technique to begin the process of script writing involves looking over the text of information, gathered from the interview, and pick out favorite items or facts from the interview or research, that supports the interests stated above. One must consider what the DRIVING force is, to emphasize the whole story. Students were reminded to save ALL drafts and review them from time to time, noticing items that have made it through from the beginning and those that have been discarded or cut out.

As students write their scripts, he reminded them that the playwright always wants the audience to leave the performance thinking, after viewing the performance or reading the play. He suggested that whenever the writer gets stuck, acting it out often helps solve the block of ideas. Each character involved in a play always has:

* an **OBJECTIVE**: tactics one uses to get to their superobjective
* a **SUPEROBJECTIVE**: overall what the character wants, “I want to….”
* **STATEMENT OF INTENT**: reason for telling the story

Students were then encouraged to act out a situation, having one person act beside another, trying to figure out the OBJECTIVE and SUPEROBJECTIVE of the character they were playing alongside.

Students are in the process of writing their scripts, which they will take to the Omaha Community Playhouse in January. Students will use the scripts they have written as they prepare and plan for a production of their work. Students will present their final productions in early March.